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E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: KMDR, KPAO, OIIP, OPRC, PGOV, PREL, PK  
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: U.S.-PAK RELATIONS; DESECRATION  
OF THE HOLY QURAN; CAMPAIGN AGAINST TERRORISM; INDIA-  
PAKISTAN RELATIONS; PAKISTAN POLITICAL SITUATION;  
MIDEAST PEACE PROCESS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD  
DATE/CASE ID: 13 MAY 2009 200706444

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(June 07, 2005)

MR Highlights: A few days back, some Pakistani dailies carried a story accusing the U.S. of printing and distributing a fake Quran. PAS Islamabad immediately went to IIP's newly-launched website, Identifying Misinformation, and downloaded the related-clarification "A New American Koran?" and sent it to several selected Urdu and English dailies as a rejoinder. One of U.S.'s biggest critics, rightwing Urdu daily, "Nawa-e-Waqt," (also several other dailies) prominently publishes the clarification as a box item on its back-page today. "America Not Imposing Any Quran On Muslims With The Name 'True Furqan': U.S. Embassy" (para 2). In his weekly briefing, the Spokesman of Pakistan's Foreign Office confirmed top al-Qaeda operative "Abu Faraj's Extradition to the U.S." and several papers carry it as a major story (para 7). But the biggest story today is the unveiling of country's annual budget. "Rs. 1.098 Trillion Budget Fiscal 2005-2006". As usual, the government calls the budget "People Friendly" while the opposition terms it "Anti-People" (paras 25 and 27).

English daily "The Nation" is critical of the U.S. and demands an "apology for the desecration of Quran". The paper borrows the language that the Amnesty International and the New York Times have used to criticize the Bush administration. "The U.S. administration is using interrogation centers reminiscent of the Stalinist prison", "U.S. should do away with a shadowy parallel system created by the administration after 9/11" (para 30). Leading Urdu daily "Nawa-e-Waqt" entitles one of its editorials "Aqsa Mosque and Extremist Jews" and alleges: "Jewish extremist organizations have appealed to the Jews to enter the Aqsa Mosque and perform religious rituals." The paper goes on to say: "The only solution to this problem lies in the awakening of Muslim people, their rulers and reactivation of the OIC." (para 38). End Highlights.

## -- News Stories/U.S.-Pak Relations

1. "Government Concerned at the Delay in U.S. visas for Pakistanis," Din" (06/07)

Quote: Pakistan has expressed concern at the extraordinary delay Pakistanis face in getting U.S. visas. Pakistan's Ambassador to the U.S. Gen (Retd)

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Jehangir Karamat raised this issue in a meeting with the Assistant Secretary of State for Consular Affairs Maura Harty a few days ago. He especially mentioned the difficulty this posed to doctors and students. End quote.

### -- Desecration of the Holy Quran

2. "America Not Imposing Any Quran On Muslims With The Name True Furqan: U.S. Embassy Writes To Majid Nizami" "Nawa-e-Waqt" (06/07)

Text: In a letter to Nawa-e-Waqt Chief Editor, Majid Nizami, American Embassy has clarified that America is not imposing any Quran on the Muslims with the title

'True Furqan.' The letter said that a Christian preaching group has published a book "True Furqan" with the aim to attract Muslims toward Christianity. However, this group has no connection with the U.S. government. The letter denied the claim of great mufti of Palestine that America is imposing 'True Furqan' on Muslims as a new Quran. The letter also denied the claim of an Egyptian journal's Editor that the 'True Furqan' was secretly published in Israel and America and that 12 more publications under the same title would be published. The letter accused Egyptian journalist of spreading disinformation about America. The letter also claimed that the Egyptian journalist had been a close associate of Saddam Hussein. The letter said that the 'True Furqan' was published in America in 1999 and not secretly. 'True Furqan' was not published in Israel, was first printed in Arabic and later on translated into English. This translation was done by an Arab group of Christian preachers. According to Dr. Anees Sarosh, who translated 'True Furqan' into English, the said book is part of the Christian preachers effort to convert Muslims into Christianity. According to Dr. Sarosh, the book has similarity with the Quran, but it also contain portion of Bible. According to Dr. Sarosh, this book was not published in Israel. End text.

3. "Court-Martial Ruled Out" "The News" (06/07)

Quote: The United States military is unlikely to hold court-martial proceedings in three cases of deliberate mishandling of the Holy Quran at Guantanamo Bay prison, a top military official said on Monday. Air Force Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told reporters during a visit to Malaysia that only two

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or three complaints of mishandling of the Holy Quran turned out to have involved actions done on purpose. "This is serious, but it's clearly not probably going to result in court-martial activity," Myers said. "But it depends on why they did it what the motivation was," he told reporters in response to a question. Myers is visiting Malaysia after attending a security conference in Singapore.... End quote.

### 4. "Islamabad Failed To Register Strong Protest To U.S. Over Desecration: PBC" "The News" (06/07)

Quote: In line with a Pakistan Bar Council call, the lawyers across Pakistan will observe a complete strike and will boycott the courts on June 9 to record their protest against the desecration of the Holy Quran in Guantanamo Bay by the American interrogators. This was announced by PBC Vice Chairman Hafiz Abdul Rehman Ansari while addressing a press conference here Monday. Ansari appealed to the fellow lawyers to pass resolutions in 'strongest possible words' against the U.S. and its stooges in Pakistan. He also requested them to come out and make these processions in the country a real success. "American soldiers have injured the sentiments of the Muslims throughout the world. We condemn this act and we deem President Bush responsible for this [desecration]," he maintained. He said the government of Pakistan had not registered her protest with the U.S. according to diplomatic norms. "It has shown cowardice to summon U.S. Ambassador in the Foreign Office to lodge

Pakistan's proper protest as is required under international law. The religious and political parties have also failed to lodge a strong protest."... End quote.

### 5. "Democratic Forces In Pakistan Are Under Pressure Due To The Incident Of Desecration Of The Quran, The U.S. Must Demonstrate Restraint: Sheikh Rashid" "Khabrain" (06/07)

Quote: ... Federal Information Minister for Information Sheikh Rashid has said that the incident of desecration of Quran in Guantanamo Bay has put pressure on the democratic forces in Pakistan. Addressing a reception in Rawalpindi, Sheikh Rashid said that the U.S. must demonstrate restraint in this regard. 'Such occurrences must be discouraged, because these have hurt the sentiments of the Muslim world', he added.... End quote.

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6. "Desecration Of The Holy Quran: Pakistan Bar Council Announces Countrywide Strike On June 9," "Khabrain" (06/07)

Quote: The Pakistan Bar Council has announced a countrywide strike on June 9 against the desecration of the Holy Quran at Guantanamo Bay. Lawyers would mark this day with a boycott of the courts and would not appear for any hearing. End quote.

-- Campaign Against Terrorism

7. "Pakistan Foreign Office Confirms Abu Faraj's Extradition To U.S.," "Jang" (06/07)

Quote: Senior Al-Qaeda leader Abu Faraj Al Libbi has been handed over to the United States, a spokesman for the Pakistan Foreign Office said. The spokesman, however, desisted from giving any further details. End quote.

8. "State Department Makes No Comments" "The Nation" (website) (06/07)

Quote: The State Department Monday declined to comment on a report confirming that Pakistan has handed over alleged top Al-Qaeda operative Abu Faraj al-Libbi to the United States. "We have no comments to offer," a State Department official said when contacted by "The Nation." Usually the State Department is very forthcoming whenever captured al-Qaeda operatives are turned over to the U.S., but it has not reacted on al-Libbi's case. Last week, the Department also refused comments when President Gen. Pervez Musharraf told CNN that Pakistan would deport Al Libbi to Washington. "(W)e're in touch with the Pakistani Government about al-Libbi..." was the only comment the former State Department Spokesman, Richard Boucher, offered at that time.... End quote.

9. "Qaeda Videos Show Fierce Waziristan Fighting" "Daily Times" (06/07)

Quote: A major U.S. television network has obtained videos not seen so far, showing fierce fighting between

Pakistani troops and Al-Qaeda forces in South Waziristan last year. According to ABC, the videos made by Al-Qaeda for propaganda purposes showcase the intensely violent fighting and unique difficulties that surround

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the hunt for Usama Bin Laden in the remote tribal areas of northwest Pakistan. "It is a view from Al-Qaeda's side of the battle. The videotapes were said to be made last year, when the Pakistani army undertook a major offensive into South Waziristan ... where the fiercely independent Waziri tribe resides and where Bin Laden is believed to be in hiding," said the network.... End quote.

10. "Rulers Playing Role of U.S. Agents: Saraj" "The Nation" (06/07)

Quote: Senior Minister Sirajul Haq has said that the rulers were playing the role of U.S. agents and were killing their own citizens. Addressing a reception hosted in his honor at the resident of MMA MNA Shabir Ahmed Khan, he clarified Jihad is ornament of Muslims as "Allah Almighty has ordered us Jihad against the criminal designs of imperial elements". He said how oppressed Muslims could be dubbed terrorists who were struggling for their defense and protection, saying that terrorists were those who usurped freedom of the sovereign states and killed innocent people like Afghanistan and Iraq. He asked certain Federal Ministers rejoicing the arrest of so-called al-Qaeda activist Abu Faraj to tell who received the huge award money announced by the U.S. so that the people could know the real fact. He said the MMA would muster more mass public support to nab all the miscreants involved in the assassination of peace-loving parliamentarians like Aslam Mujahid. End quote.

11. "Nobody To Be Allowed To Use NWFP Soil For Terrorist Acts: Durrani" "The News" (06/07)

Quote: NWFP Chief Minister Akram Khan Durrani has said that his government will not allow anyone to use its soil for any terrorist act. "We want peace for ourselves and give a message of peace to the entire humanity," Durrani told journalists at the Frontier House, Islamabad. The chief minister said Afghanistan had been a battlefield for decades. The super powers used Afghanistan for their own interests and the poor Afghans suffered because of the war that was not their own. He regretted that despite sacrifices no nation uttered a single reassurance words for the hapless of Afghan people. It was their relentless struggle that dismembered the mighty USSR, he said, says a handout. Referring to the war on terror, Durrani said who brought the foreigners? Who trained them? Who provided them

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logistic and warfare support? Neither Pakistan brought them nor the tribal people invited them rather it was the international community who used them for their own whimsical ends, he said. He said that after the Afghan war, these foreigners were not allowed by their own country. Their entry to their own country was restricted.... End quote.

### 12. "Afghan Refugees Asked To Leave N Waziristan By June 30" "The News" (06/07)

Quote: The political administration Monday instructed Afghan refugees to leave North Waziristan tribal agency and cross over to Afghanistan by June 30 or face eviction. The instruction was to be conveyed to the several thousand Afghan refugees through traditional drum beating and via Radio Pakistan Miramshah. The drumbeaters would make announcements in the bazaars and public places in major towns such as Miramshah and Mir Ali. The refugees would be warned that they risked being evicted from North Waziristan and deported to a camp set up for them in Bannu district if they failed to leave on their own by June 30. Action would be taken against them after the June 30 deadline. The authorities would convey to the Afghan refugees to repatriate to their native provinces in Afghanistan as a first choice. Failing to do so, they would be asked to shift or be deported to the camp in Bannu.... End quote.

### 13. "Taliban Attacks In Zabul And Kunhar: Eight U.S. And Seven Afghan Troops Killed" "Islam" (06/07)

Quote: ... Taliban militants have killed eight U.S. and seven Afghan soldiers in Afghanistan. According to Radio Tehran, Taliban spokesman Latif Ullah Hakeemi has said that Taliban militants had attacked a U.S. army vehicle and killed eight soldiers. However the independent sources did not confirm this report.... Taliban spokesman also claimed that they had killed seven Afghan policemen in Zabul.... End quote.

### 14. "Khamenei Suspects Hidden Hand Behind Shia-Sunni Strife In Pakistan" "The News" (06/07)

Quote: Supreme Leader of the Iranian Revolution Ayatullah Khamenei has said he suspected hidden hand behind Shia-Sunni conflicts in Pakistan and other countries and urged the Muslim world to get united, as their unity would foil the conspiracies of the enemies

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of Islam. He was addressing a meeting in connection with the 16th death anniversary of the great revolutionary leader Imam Khomeini.... End quote.

### 15. "Fake And Ghost NGOs Banned" "Nawa-e-Waqt" (06/07)

Quote: There are a large number of foreign funded NGOs in Pakistan, their number running into thousands. Some of the NGOs do not even have offices and staff, but still Foreign Embassies fund them. The Federal Ministry of Youth Affairs had imposed a ban on 68 fake and ghost NGOs, which included: Academy of Knowledge Rawalpindi, Swan Welfare Association Rawalpindi, Flag Carrier Youth Organization Rawalpindi, Health Promotion Society Texila, Jawan Pakistan Lahore, Crescent Tourist Club Lahore, Youth Council for Anti Narcotics, Pakistan Hikers Group, Society for Providing Skills Employment and Welfare to Women Lahore, All Pakistan Youth Movement Lahore.. End quote.

### 16. "U.S. Toughens Law On Asylum" "Dawn" (06/07)

Quote: A new immigration law, enacted on May 11, makes it difficult for people to seek asylum in the United

States and gives law -enforcement agencies more power to deport aliens, says the Congressional Research Service. In an extensive review of the REAL ID Act of 2005, the CRS points out that the new law modifies the eligibility criteria for asylum and for preventing law-enforcement agencies from deporting an alien. The law limits judicial review of certain immigration decisions, such as deportation orders. It provides the government additional waiver authority over laws that might impede the expeditious construction of barriers and roads along America's land borders. The REAL ID also expands the scope of terror-related activity making an alien inadmissible or deportable if suspected of involvement in such activities. A terror suspect will also be ineligible for certain forms of relief from removal granted under existing U.S. laws.... End quote.

### -- India-Pakistan Relations

### 17. "America Is Not Our Master: Work On The Iran-Pakistan-India Pipeline Would Start Next Year: Mani Shankar Aiyer," "Khabrain" (06/07)

Quote Pakistan and India have agreed to implement the proposed gas pipeline project and have decided to form a

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joint working group. According to APP, after his meetings with the Pakistani Petroleum Minister and Prime Minister, Indian Petroleum Minister Mani Shankar Aiyer said that in addition to the IPI (India-Pakistan-Iran) pipeline, India is also interested in collaboration in Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Qatar pipelines.... In response to a question regarding U.S. pressure, he said that the U.S. is not our master or king, Pakistan and India themselves are the kings of Asia. He added we do not need to heed to anyone else's orders with regards to our requirements. End quote.

18. "No U.S. Pressure On Pakistan In Gas Pipeline Issue: Envoy" "The News" (06/07)

Quote: The United States has made it clear that it does not believe in exerting pressures on strategic partners like Pakistan on any question. This has been stated by Ryan C. Crocker, United States Ambassador to Pakistan, while responding a question on reported U.S. pressure on Pakistan for not having deal with Iran about purchase of gas from Tehran and laying a pipeline from Iran to Pakistan that would lead to India. The Ambassador was talking to "The News" here in a reception arranged by Italian Ambassador Roberto Mazzodda on the national day of his country. The Ambassador said the United States is fully aware of Pakistan's needs for having more and more energy resources. The energy is critical for Pakistan's future ambitious plans. The question from where and how Pakistan would get the much needed energy for its future plans that is a separate question, the U.S. Ambassador added. He said Pakistan is an independent and sovereign country. It has every right to look into the various sources for acquiring energy since many options would be available to it. Pakistan will have to decide about the source of its choice the best suited to it and obviously Pakistan would like that the sources should be safe and credible, he observed.... End quote.

19. "U.S. Allows To Appoint Indian Defense Attach In Central Command" "Khabrain" (06/07)

Quote: ... The U.S. administration has allowed India to appoint its Defense Attach in Central Command, Pacific Command and at the Embassy in Washington. An announcement in this regard will be made on the eve of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's visit to the U.S. All the formalities will be completed prior to Indian

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Defense Minister Pranab Mukarjee's departure to Washington on June 26. Both the countries have also agreed to appoint an official at the Indian Embassy in Washington to assist the procurement of American arms for India.... End quote.

20. "No Roadmap For Kashmir Without Its People: FO"  
"Daily Times" (06/07)

Quote: A "road map" to resolving the Kashmir issue is not possible without involving its people, said Pakistan on Monday. Foreign Office spokesman Jalil Abbas Jilani told reporters that Kashmiri aspirations must be taken into consideration for a lasting solution to the Kashmir dispute. "Kashmir is a cardinal issue and Pakistan has principled stand on it," said Jilani. He said that Pakistan was committed to its position on Kashmir and it should be solved according to Kashmiri wishes. He added that Kashmiri leaders on both sides were aware of their people's wishes and would not compromise on them.... End quote.

21. "New Delhi Rejected Proposal To Include Hurriat In Talks: Kasuri" "Daily Times" (06/07)

Quote: India has turned down Pakistan's suggestion to include the All Parties Hurriat Conference (APHC) in the ongoing dialogue between the two countries on resolving the Kashmir issue, Foreign Minister Khurshid Kasuri said in an interview with Gulf News. "Pakistan asked India to include the separatist APHC in the peace process. But India was hesitant, and turned it down" the Minister said. "President Musharraf suggested that Kashmiris sit at the peace table, as they make up the third party," Kasuri said, adding that the suggestion was made when Musharraf met Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in New Delhi in April. However, the Indian premier "did not agree", Kasuri said.... End quote.

22. "Loc As Border Not Acceptable: Mirwaiz" "The News"  
(06/07)

Quote: Kashmiris and their leaders would accept neither the Line of Control (LoC) as permanent border nor any other solution that which ignored their wishes, APHC chief Mirwaiz Omar Farooq said here on Monday. Talking to reporters upon his arrival here at the Allama Iqbal International Airport, Mirwaiz said Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz had assured the APHC delegation that no decision would be taken without taking the Kashmiri

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leaders into confidence. "The ongoing talks would be fruitless without the inclusion of Kashmiri leadership," he said. He lauded the launch of the trans-Kashmir bus

service, which facilitated reunion of Kashmiri families.... End quote.

23. "No Kashmir Solution Without Geelani: Hizb" "Daily Times" (06/07)

Quote: Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, acting chairman of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC), and Yasin Malik, the chairman of his own faction of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), met Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) Supreme Commander Syed Salahuddin separately in Islamabad late on Sunday. Syed Salahuddin is also the chairman of the United Jihad Council, which had rejected talks with the visiting APHC leaders. Sources privy to the meeting told "Daily Times" that the HM supreme commander made it clear to Mirwaiz and Malik that if Syed Ali Shah Geelani was not included in the peace process, the Hizb would not accept any solution of the Kashmir issue.... End quote.

24. "Indo-Pak Group Formed For Interaction On Gas Line" "Daily Times" (06/07)

Quote: India and Pakistan have decided to form a joint working group (JWG) headed by their Petroleum Ministry secretaries to increase technical, financial and legal interaction at the expert level to work towards the proposed \$4 billion Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline. Indian Oil Minister Mani Shankar Aiyar told a press conference on Monday after the conclusion of a two-day ministerial meeting, that the first JWG meeting would be held later in June or early July. Aiyar said India and Pakistan would hold six expert-level meetings and three ministerial-level meetings during the next six months. He said he would come to Pakistan again in November and meet his Pakistani counterpart. He said, "Both sides have decided to increase interaction and will be able to finalize all technical issues of the gas project. We have speeded up efforts to bring one gas pipeline from Iran and the other from Turkmenistan."... End quote.

-- Pakistan Political Situation

25. "Rs 1.098 Trillion Budget For Fiscal 2005-06: Growth-Oriented, People-Friendly Budget: Govt." "Daily Times" (06/07)

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Quote: The government has presented a Rupees 1.098 trillion budget for fiscal 2005-06, which is 20.7 percent higher than last year's Rs 903 billion budget outlay. Despite achieving GDP growth of 8.4 percent, the government has set a six to eight percent growth target for fiscal 2005-06. Minister of State for Finance Omar Ayub Khan presented the budget on Monday and announced some tax reductions and some new taxes. In the next fiscal year the total available money will be Rs 980 billion, with an estimated Rs 212 billion required in external resources to meet the budget deficit. The budget deficit has been marked at 3.8 percent, down from four percent last year. The budget carries net taxes of Rs 643 billion. The government announced a record Rs 306 billion for development programs. The Public Sector Development Fund was increased to Rs 272 billion, an increase of 34.6

percent. Education, higher education, water and health were also given higher allocations than last year. The government has set the revenue target at Rs 690 billion, an increase of Rs 110 billion, or 18.9 percent, from last year. However, the government is likely to exceed that target for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2005. The government has also increased the defense budget, as it did last year. The Minister said the defense budget would not exceed 3.1 percent of GDP for the next year. The defense budget has been set at Rs 223 billion, seven percent more than last year's Rs 194 billion.... End quote.

26. "Budget Without NFC Illegal: Opposition" "Daily Times" (06/07)

Quote: The opposition in the National Assembly (NA) declared the 2005-2006 Budget 'unconstitutional and illegal' and staged a token walkout from proceedings on Monday. Before Omar Ayub Khan, the Minister of State for Finance, could present the budget, opposition leaders took the floor on points of order and argued that the Finance Bill violated the Constitution. Amin Fahim, PPPP President, said it was mandatory under Article 160 of the Constitution to announce a new National Finance Commission award every five years. "These entire proceedings are illegal and unconstitutional because it is mandatory to prepare the budget under a new NFC award (whenever applicable)," he said. Chaudhry Amir Hussain, NA speaker, rejected the argument and ruled that the Finance Bill could be

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presented in the absence of a new NFC award. "... End quote.

27. "Religious Leaders Term Budget Anti-People" "The News" (06/07)

Quote: Religious leaders have termed the budget 2005-06 anti-people and anti-poor, saying it gives no relief to the common man. Describing the budget speech as a jugglery of words, they said all the resources were allocated for the privileged and ruling class. MMA Vice-President and Jamaat Ahle Hadith President Senator Sajid Mir said doors were kept open in the so-called tax-free budget to bring many mini budgets. He said the government should have reduced fuel, gas and power charges to alleviate sufferings of the poor. Sajid termed the relief to salaried class peanuts. He said though increase in defense budget was necessary, it should have been brought under the Auditor General. He said the government was not worried about common man because neither the president nor the prime minister was elected by common man, and they would not be presenting themselves before the court of common man in future. He said the rulers got power through back door and therefore cared least for the public welfare.... End quote.

28. "Jamaat-e-Islami Asks Army To Check Willfulness Of President Musharraf," "Jasarat" (06/07)

Quote: The head of Religious Parties' Alliance and Chief of Jamaat-e-Islami, Qazi Hussain Ahmad, has called upon the Pakistan Army to check General Musharraf from

acting in an inflexible manner in order to improve upon its image [among the public]. End quote.

29. "Children Are Still Being Prepared For Suicide Attacks: Benazir Bhutto" "Khabrain" (06/07)

Quote: ... Former Prime Minister of Pakistan and the Chairperson of PPP Benazir Bhutto has said that humankind had made tremendous progress in civilization, 'but we are not bringing up our children properly.' Speaking at an award distribution ceremony, Benazir Bhutto said many people are still preparing their children for suicide attacks. 'Children have to bear the consequences of the errors of their elders', she added.... End quote.

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## ----- Editorials/Opinions -----

### -- Campaign Against Terrorism

30. "Gulag Of Our Times," an editorial in the center-right national English daily, "The Nation" (06/07)

Quote: Rejecting strongly worded protests from President Bush, Secretary Rumsfeld and Secretary Rice, the prestigious Amnesty International has reiterated its stand that the U.S. government is operating an "archipelago" of interrogation centers around the world reminiscent of the Stalinist prison camps.... They also took note of interrogative methods like extracting the nails of prisoners, use of electric shocks and in the case of Uzbekistan, even boiling political opponents and suspects alive. As Amnesty international observed it in its annual report last month, tactics to fight the War on Terror being employed by the U.S. had turned out to be counterproductive while they had encouraged rampant abuse of human rights. The desecration of the Holy Quran at Guantanamo, the killing of suspects by subjecting them to unbearable torture in Bagram and other places, and the humiliation of detenus by interrogators and U.S. army personnel at Abu Ghraib have strengthened the perception, created by President Bush's declaration of a crusade in the wake of 9/11, among many Muslims across the world the Bush administration is in fact waging a war against Islam. This is increasingly isolating the moderate elements and regimes in Muslim countries and providing the extremists a cause clbre to recruit terrorists. It is high time the Bush Administration apologizes for the desecration of the Holy Quran and treats the suspects in accordance with the normal judicial process and do away with what the New York Times calls a shadowy parallel system created by the administration after 9/11. End quote.

### -- India-Pakistan Relations

31. "Dialogue on Kashmir: Time Frame for Dispute Resolution," an editorial in the second largest Urdu daily "Nawa-e-Waqt" (06/07)

Quote: President Musharraf has demand of India in an interview to The Gulf News that India should give a time frame for the resolution of the Kashmir dispute.... Alongside the demand for the time frame there should be

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a strong demand for the withdrawal of one million Indian troops from the occupied Jammu and Kashmir, release of political prisoners and an Indian announcement for the prosecution of military personnel involved in the massacre of Kashmiris.... If India does not accept the demands, there is no use on talking with it on other issues. This joke should stop now. End quote.

32. "Gas Supply To India," an editorial in the center-right Urdu daily "Pakistan" (06/07)

Quote: We want to point out that without the resolution of the Kashmir dispute the goodwill emotions would neither last long nor would there be continuity in the bilateral cooperation.. American reaction on the Iran gas pipeline project should be an eye-opener for both the nations.... If both Pakistan and India were able to resolve their disputes on the basis of justice and mutual respect, then no foreign power would be able to impose its hegemony over the Subcontinent. End quote.

33. "Indo-Pak Talks for Gas Pipeline - A positive Development," an editorial in the populist Urdu daily "Khabrain" (06/07)

Quote: Indo-Pak talks on the gas pipeline project have started in Islamabad. Indian Petroleum Minister Mani Shankar Aiyer has said that the energy sector can become an important basis for strong relations between India and Pakistan.... Pakistan would gain two immediate benefits from this project. First, Pakistan would benefit financially from this project as the pipeline would pass through the country and secondly, Pakistan would gain gas at extremely low prices. Sufficient gas supply to Pakistan would mean a lower import bill and lesser dependence on oil and petrol. It would also mean that electricity bills would come down and industrial units would shift to gas, to the benefit of the common man. The day is not far when Pakistan would become an important corridor for gas pipelines, giving the economy a boost. We hope that this project proves to be a positive development for both India and Pakistan. End quote.

34. "Ali Gillani's Warning," an editorial in the Karachi-based, right-wing, pro-Islamic unity Urdu daily, "Jasarat" (06/07)

Quote: The governments of both India and Pakistan are fully aware that it is Kashmiri leader Syed Ali Gillani

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behind whose back is the majority of Kashmiris. He is the leader of the freedom fighters. At a time when the various Kashmiri leaders of varying shades of opinion were enjoying Pakistan's hospitality in Islamabad, Syed Ali Gillani was telling the world that President Musharraf has got entangled in American web and is now pursuing its agenda. End quote.

35. "Our Intellectual Confusion On Kashmir Issue Is Dangerous," an editorial in the Karachi-based, pro-

Taliban/Jihad Urdu daily, "Islam" (06/07)

Quote: It is really perturbing that the Kashmir leaders currently visiting Pakistan have no definite solution to the Kashmir issue nor do they have a clear-cut target ahead of them. There is also a considerable difference of opinion between the visiting Kashmiri leaders and same is the situation of Government of Pakistan and Pakistan politicians. It is being feared that Pakistan might accede to the pro-Indian solution of the Kashmir issue that's going to be presented with full support from the U.S. End quote.

36. "Futile Effort," an editorial in the sensationalist Urdu daily, "Ummat" (06/07)

Quote: One cannot desist from asking the visiting Kashmiri leaders as to what was the agenda of their 'consultations' that they preferred to come as "Indian citizens" to Pakistan? The pro-Pakistan Syed Ali Gillani and Shabbir Ahmad Shah who did not want to come to Pakistan as Indian citizens were not allowed to undertake this voyage. Could the visit of Kashmir leaders, sans these two, be termed as successful? This is an incomplete delegation that is currently visiting Pakistan. Not only the Gillani or Ansari groups but also the Pakistani powers-that-be are also responsible for the differences that have emerged between the Kashmiri leadership. End quote.

-- Pakistan Political Situation

37. "The Budget," an editorial in the centrist national English daily, "The News" (06/07)

Quote: The budget for 2005-06, which was presented in the National Assembly on Monday, emerges as an attempt to maintain the momentum of economic growth, create new job opportunities, provide relief to the fixed income

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group, accelerate infrastructure and social sector development and simplify tax procedures.... However, the benefits of high economic growth should trickle down in larger measure than what has been the case. The budget could also have carried some more relief measures for the people as poor and middle-income was badly hit by high inflation this year. The total size of the budget for 2005-06 is Rupees 1098 billion. Total availability of resources has been placed at Rupees 980 billion. Current expenditure would be Rupees 826 billion and development expenditure Rupees 272 billion. A sum of Rupees 20 billion would come through privatization proceeds while bank borrowing has been placed at Rupees 98 billion. The government would contain the budget deficit at 3.8 percent. While the financial position of the government has improved, it is fair to expect that it would continue to enhance the allocations for employment generation, poverty reduction and social sector development programs. The country's economy has been rated as one of the fastest growing in the region. The growth ought to be pro-poor and sustainable. End quote.

-- Mideast Peace Process

38. "Aqsa Mosque and Extremist Jews," an editorial note in the second largest Urdu daily "Nawa-e-Waqt" (06/07)

Quote: Israeli authorities and extremist Jew organizations have stepped up their conspiracies against the Aqsa Mosque. Jew extremist organizations have appealed to the Jews to enter the Aqsa Mosque and perform religious rituals.... The only solution to this problem lies in the awakening of Muslim people, their rulers and reactivation of the OIC. End quote.  
Crocker

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